



SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION
CTW, CLC

**Local 32BJ
Headquarters**

25 West 18th Street
New York, NY 10011-1991
212.388.3800

HÉCTOR J. FIGUEROA
President

LARRY ENGELSTEIN
Executive Vice President

KYLE BRAGG
Secretary Treasurer

LENORE FRIEDLAENDER
Assistant to the President

VICE PRESIDENTS

SHIRLEY ALDEBOL
KEVIN BROWN
JAIME CONTRERAS
ROB HILL
DENIS JOHNSTON
GABE MORGAN
ROXANA RIVERA
JOHN SANTOS
JOHN THACKER

Capital Area District
Washington 202.387.3211
Baltimore 410.244.5970
Virginia 703.845.7760

District 1201
215.923.5488

Florida District
305.672.7071

Hudson Valley District
914.328.3492

Mid-Atlantic District
215.226.3600

**National Conference of
Firemen and Oilers**
606.324.3445

New England District 615
617.523.6150

New Jersey District
973.824.3225

Western Pennsylvania District
412.471.0690

www.seiu32bj.org

Testimony of Chantelle Kalinsky

House Bill 5260

February 25, 2016

Good afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to testify here today. My name is Chantelle Kalinsky, and I am a member of 32BJ SEIU. I work at the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection as a security guard and have been a member 32BJ for three years. 32BJ represents over 4,500 members in Connecticut. Our members are cleaners and security guards, and we are the backbone of the property service industry.

Being in a union gives me the right to fight for good pay and fair hours. It means that I have a way to make a complaint and stand up for my rights. I want domestic workers in Connecticut to be treated fairly, to be paid well, and to have access to their full rights, too. On behalf of my union and in support of domestic workers, I'm here today to ask the committee to please stand with working people and oppose House Bill 5260.

House Bill 5260 will lower pay for domestic care workers with 24-hour shifts by allowing some work hours to count as unpaid time. This bill will also make it harder for domestic care workers to stand up for

Connecticut District
Juan Hernandez, Area Leader

Hartford Office
196 Trumbull Street, 4th Floor
Hartford, CT 06103
860.560.8674

Stamford Office
777 Summer Street, 5th Floor
Stamford, CT 06901
203.602.6615

themselves in a disagreement because it puts the burden of keeping track of those hours on the worker.

As you may know, domestic workers are more likely to be women, immigrants, and people of color. By decreasing their wages, this bill sends the message that these workers are less worthy than other workers. As a woman of color and as a member of a union that fights for equal treatment for all workers, I am here to oppose that change.

Finally, by devaluing the workers, this bill also devalues the work. This will hurt the quality of care for seniors and persons with disabilities that rely on home care workers. By opposing this bill, you not only stand with domestic workers, you also stand with the people who they care for.

Please do the right thing and oppose House Bill 5260. Thank you for the opportunity to testify here today.